

Snared: SATANIC SET-UPS

Psalm 91:1-3 - He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." ³ Surely, He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence.

People don't really believe that there is an enemy called the devil that is out to destroy them...

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary... walks about as a roaring lion... - 1 Peter 5: 8

- He is a **personal** enemy
- He is a **pretending** enemy
- He is a **powerful** enemy

Paul introduced the possibility of a fall into a satanic setup in his letters to Timothy. He understood the dangers of a satanic trap or snare:

- "Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil" – **1 TIM. 3: 7**
- "...they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" – **2 Tim. 2: 26**
- *The thief cometh not but to steal, and to kill, and to destroy" – John 10: 10*

The Greek word for "snare" = means a stratagem, a setup, the preparation of a noose for the neck.

- *It is clear that Satan is building some gallows.*

Do you know that... Every single one of us, **saved or unsaved**, have the capacity to fall as low and as far into horrible sin with all its deception, cover-ups, lies and uncontrollable lusts?

- **No one has ever plumbed the depths of depravity...**

Looking back, I see where the devil had laid numerous well-planned and intricate traps because he wanted to destroy me...

GOD PROMISES US A WAY OUT:

- *"The wicked (Satan) have laid a snare (trap) for me: yet I erred not from Thy precepts" - Psalm 119:110*
- *"Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowler: the snare is broken, and we are escaped" - Psalm 124:7*

SUPREME EXAMPLE OF A SET UP: DAVID - 1 and 2 Samuel – *The details of David's setup:*

THE DEVIL SET DAVID UP WHEN HE WAS AT HIS PEAK

- ❖ **David was blessed physically, financially, and spiritually.**
 1. David was not hiding in a cave, nor was he a penniless fugitive running for his life.
 2. He was not in a pit of discouragement or depressed or burdened down with cares.
 3. He was on top of the world! No man on earth was more blessed than David at that time.
 4. He was prosperous, greatly loved, and greatly feared.
- ❖ **David was victorious over all of his enemies - David was feared by all his enemies.**
 1. **2 Samuel 8** - seven major wars listed in a single chapter. These were great wars with ferocious enemies.
 2. David literally slew thousands, taking multitudes as prisoners.
 3. Twice in **2 Samuel 8** we read that the Lord gave David victory withersoover he went"... The Syrians became servants to David, and brought gifts. And the Lord preserved David withersoover he went" (**2 Samuel 8:6**), and "All they of Edom became David's servants... and the Lord preserved David withersoover he went" (verse 14).
- ❖ **David's family enjoyed God's blessings!**
 1. "David's sons were chief rulers" - **2 Samuel 8:18**
 2. following his sin, his family disintegrated.
 - a) David's son, Amnon raped his own sister Tamar
 - b) Absalom rebelled and eventually was killed
 - c) Adonijah also rebelled and was put to death
 - d) eventually there was the apostasy of Solomon.
 3. But before he sinned his family was united, he enjoyed their love and support, and blessings were growing on all sides. There was peace at home and his family was in control.
- ❖ **David loved his church and sat under godly shepherds.**
 1. "Zadok... and Ahimelec... were the priests" - **2 Samuel 8:17**
 2. He was ministered to by the faithful prophet Nathan who loved David but was uncompromising.
 3. David was not starved for the Word. He was not in the midst of a spiritual famine. The Word he received was pure and according to God's heart.
 4. There was no false doctrine, no backslidden shepherd, and no polluted gospel. He sat under the purest, strongest message of the time.
- ❖ **David was at the peak of his generosity.** He was so caring and loving that he sought out ways to show his concern of others.

1. "And David said: Is there yet any that is left after the house of Saul that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" - **2 Samuel 9:11**.
2. He took Mephibosheth, of the house of Saul, into his home, "and (he) did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame in both his feet" - **2 Samuel 9:13**.
3. David was not wallowing in his luxury; not had he become self-centered. Rather, he was abounding in generosity and over-flowing with love and concern for the hurting.

We are most vulnerable to pride at the peak of blessings. Watch out when the blessings are on all sides! *When did Satan set up the famous evangelists who have now fallen? When they were at the peak of prosperity. He caught them when it looked as if God had opened the windows of heaven on them! They were loved, popular, and blessed above all others.*

HOW DOES SATAN SET US UP?

I. We Mistake God's Blessings For God's Approval!

- a. God can and does bless those He approves.
- b. He also blesses, for a season, many who have compromised.
- c. We tend to think "I must be doing something right, I'm so blessed!"
- d. Up to this point God has mightily blessed America but that does not mean we are approved by heaven.

A young pastor told me how Satan held him for five years in the trap of adultery. He said, "All the time I was sinning, lying, cheating, my ministry prospered. I wept all the time. I felt so close to the hurts of all my people. The devil made me believe God couldn't be too mad at me because all was going so well... until the bottom dropped out one day." Many have said the same thing: God didn't seem angry; the offerings kept increasing; the blessings didn't stop; and it seemed as if God were still with me in all I did.

II. We Have a Deep-Seated Lust That Is Not Yet Crucified.

- a. All through the blessings, David's secret lust was growing.
- b. He had been compromising the commands of God in sins that his society merely winked at, even though they were contrary to God's Word.
- c. David was constantly taking to himself additional wives; Ahonoam, Chileab, Abigail, Maccab, Haggith, Abital, Eglah.
 1. **Having numerous wives was acceptable and approved by his society, David used his society's tolerance for extra wives to satisfy a growing lust.**
 2. He had a deep-rooted sensuality, so he took on attractive wives to satisfy this disorderly lust. But rather than it being satisfied, his lust became more greedy and more lawless as he pampered it!

3. God never winks at His own commandments.

1) **Deuteronomy 17:17** - He had commanded all the kings of Israel thusly, "Neither shall he multiply wives unto himself, that his heart turn not away"

2) **Deuteronomy 17:16-17** - God had commanded of kings. "He shall not multiply horses to himself (from Egypt)... neither shall he multiply wives to himself, neither.... silver and gold"

d. Satan's setup was designed to appeal to David's weakness - his attraction to beautiful women.

e. David had a gentle personality and a warm heart for God. But he also had a hidden lust burning deep in his soul.

What timing was involved! How intricate the setup! They both had to be in their places at the right moment and she had to be doing something to tantalize his lust.

Satan knew David would rationalize, justify, and excuse his actions. He also knew David hated sin in others but couldn't see it in himself. When Nathan told him of a rich man who would not take a lamb out of his vast flock but stole a neighbor's only lamb, David called for the full judgment: "He shall surly die!" Yet he had excused his one sin.

"How could they do such a thing?" if we would allow the Holy Ghost to expose all the hidden secrets in us, all the inbred lusts, and all the impure motives, we would all be on our faces crying out, "Lord, I am the man. I am the woman. It's me in need of mercy!"

f. David's fall was not his lust on the rooftop that one night. No! David walked into Satan's trap, unprepared, with a growing greed for something attractive. "More wives" was David's weakness so another wife (married woman) was the bait.

III. We Grow Weary of the Warfare

a. **2 Samuel 11:1** - David had become weary of battle. "And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when Kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel... but David tarried still at Jerusalem"

b. **2 Samuel 21:15-17** - Yet, the day was coming when David would not be permitted to fight. Years later, in another war with the Philistines, "David waxed faint..."

c. David was not old or faint of strength. He was just tired of it all. David stood before his warrior Joab and all the armies gathered out of Israel, encouraging them to "go on, be strong, fight like good soldiers." David was going to relax, let up a bit, and have some recreation.

d. Some of you have taken a vacation from the warfare. You are weary of heart and have said to yourself, "I've got to ease up or crack up! I'm not going to love the Lord any less

and I'll stay faithful. But for a while I have to do what I have to do. I must follow my heart and my heart says, Relax."

- e. **Spiritual relaxation or letting up is the final spring in the devil's trap.**
- f. **Romans13: 11-14** - "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying; but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh to fulfil the lusts thereof"
- g. If the night were far spent and the day of the Lord near when this was written, then how much nearer must it be now

All through the New Testament, God is calling us to awake, to be vigilant and aware, and to put on the whole armor. We are not to sleep as do others, but be quickened, ever ready, and always looking for and hastening to the day of the Lord.

Relax in this war, and you are dead. Relax, and you are going to be hung in the devil's trap. That call to relax is right out of hell! It is the siren call of Satan himself. ***David relaxed right into the arms of Bathsheba!***

"Keep me from the snares which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity... let the wicked fall into their own nets... while I escape" (Psalm 141:9-10).